

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
SSM-05 IO-14 /084 W
-----019327 211643Z /43

O 211522Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7359
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST UNN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION SINAI

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS:OVIP (BEGIN, MENAHEM), IS, US
SUBJECT: CONTINUED HEAVY PRESS COVERAGE OF THE BEGIN VISIT

1. COVERAGE OF THE BEIN VISIT CONTINUES EXTREMELY
HEAVY TODAY WITH ALL PAPERS GIVING IT FEATURED TREATMENT.
MOST PAPERS COMMENT WITH RELIEF ON THE AVOIDANCE OF CON-
FRONTATION AND ON THE RELAXED, FAVORABLE ATMOSPHERE
SURROUNDING THE VISIT. BEGIN IS GIVEN HIGH PRAISE FOR
HIS SUCCESSFUL PUBLIC RELATIONS EFFORT AND THE APPARENT
RAPPORT ESTABLISHED WITH THE PRESIDENT. HOWEVER, ALL
PAPERS SEE THAT DIFFERENCES ON THE ISSUES REMAIN. THE
GENERAL THEME IS THAT A MEASURE OF AGREEMENT
WAS REACHED ON PROCEDURES (GETTING NEGOTIATIONS
EN TRAIN), WITH THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION AGREEING AT
LEAST TO POSTPONE CONFRONTATION ON THE SUBSTANCE OF
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THOSE NEGOTIATIONS.

2. ALTHOUGH MOST EDITORIALS ARE POSITIVE IN THEIR
APPRAISAL, CRITICISM AND SKEPTICISM CROP UP HERE AND
THERE. NOT SURPRISINGLY, AL HAMISHMAR FINDS FLIES
IN BEGIN'S SOOTHING OINTMENT. TO BEGIN WITH, THE
MAPAM ORGAN SEES IN THE LOCAL HOOPLA GIVEN BEGIN'S

"PEACE PLAN" AN EXAMPLE OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S TENDENCY TO OVER-DRAMATIZE MATTERS. IN FACT, THE EDITORIAL CLAIMS THAT THE PLAN REPRESENTS NOTHING NEW, EXCEPT PERHPAS ITS "SLOPPY WORDKING," E.G., OMITTING MENTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WHEN DESCRIBING COMPONENTS OF PEACE. BUT AL HAMISHMAR WONDERS IF THE OMISSION WAS DUE LESS TO CARELESSNESS THAN A WILLINGNESS TO CONDEDE POINTS IN THE MEANING OF PEACE JUST AS LONG AS THERE IS NO CONCESSION OF THE WEST BANK. BLITZER IN THE JERUSALEM POST ALSO INDICATES THAT ALL WAS NOT WELL. HE WRITES THAT "DESPITE THE SURFACE ATMOSPHERE OF CORDIALITY AND WARMTH DELIBERATELY CREAED BY ISRAELI AND AMERICAN OFFICIALS...THE PRESIDENT...IS SAID TO BE DISAPPOINTED THAT HE COULD NOT WIN A CLEAR-CUT RESPONSE FROM THE ISRAELI LEADER ON SEVERAL DELICATE ISSUES."

3. IN STARK CONTRAST TO THESE CRITICAL PIECES WAS THE EDITORIAL IN YEDIOT AHARONOT. ESTIMATING THAT MUTUAL FRIENDSHIP AND ESTEEM BETWEEN THE TWO LEADERS HAS DEVELOPED AS A RESULT OF THEIR MEETINGS, THE AFTERNOON DAILY CALLS THE VISIT "IMPRESSIVELY SUCCESSFUL."ITS GREATEST SUCCESS LIES IN THE FACT THATPRESIDENT CARTER WELCOMED THE APPROACH THAT AT THE PRESENT STAGE ALL EFFORTS MUST BE CONCENTRATED ON FURTHERING MOVES TOWARD NEGOTIATIONS.WHILE UNDERSTANDING THE FRUSTRATION UNCLASSIFIED

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OF THE PRESS AT BEGIN'S JULY 20 PRESS CONFERENCE, YEDIOT PRAISES BEGIN'S REFUSAL TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ON BORDERS OR THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE, MAINTAINING THAT STATEMENT

"DYANMITE," NOT ONLY VIS-A-VIS THE ARAB STATES BUT ALSO FOR WASHINGTON.

4. EVEN DAVAR'S (HISTADRUT) EDITORIAL WAS ON BALANCE COMPLIMENTARY. WHLE WARNING AGAINST EXAGGERATED DELUSIONS ON THE OUTCOME OF THE VISIT, IT CONCLUDES THAT EVEN IF MORE LIMITED OBJECTIVES, SUCH AS CREATING PERSONAL CONTACTS, PREVENTING A SHOWDOWN WITH WASHINGTON, AND FINDING A WAY TO PROMOTE DIPLOMATIC IMPETUS ARE ATTAINED, THIS WILL BE NO MEAN ACHIEVEMENT.

5. NOTING THE VISIT'S SUCCESS, GUINEY, WRITING IN YEDIOT, WONDERS WHY THE TERRITORIAL ASPECTS OF BEGIN'S PROPOSALS HAD BEEN LEAKED TO THE PRESS. THEY CERTAINLY WILL NOT HELP IN GETTING THE GENEVA CONFERENCE TO

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RECONVENE. HE ALSO REMINDS HIS READERS THAT THE
ISSUE OF PLO REPRESENTATION MUST STILL BE RESOLVED
BEFORE THE MEPC CAN REOPEN. GUINEY CONCLUDES BY
SAYING THA U.S. PUBLIC SATISFACTION WITH THE VISIT
HAS ONLY ONE EXPLANATION: BEGIN MAY HAVE PERSUADED
THEM (THE U.S. PUBLIC) THAT WHEN TRUE PEACE (SIC) IS
ACHIEVED BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE ARABS, HE WILL
BE WILLING TO BE MORE FLEXIBLE THEN HIS VIEWS ON
ISRAEL'S FUTURE BORDERS LEAD ONE BO BELIEVE.

6. MAARIV ALSO GIVES A BALANCED BUT NONETHELESS UPBEAT
STAMP TO THE CARTER-BEGIN TALKS. IT IS WORTH
QUOTING IN FULL: "DESPITE THE WARM ATMOSPHERE, THE
CORDIAL PERSONAL TIES ESTABLISHED BETWEEN THE U.S.
PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER BEGIN, THE GENERAL
FRIENDLINESS WHICH EXCEEDED EXPECTATIONS--A GAP
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NEVERTHELESS REMAINS WHICH NOT EVEN THE MOST EXTRA-VAGANT COMPLIMENTS AND REITERATIONS OF MUTUAL FAITH CAN BRIDGE. IF BEGIN'S VISIT HAS BEEN A SUCCESS, IT IS BECAUSE BOTH HE AND HIS HOSTS HAD THE GOOD SENSE TO ABSTAIN FROM ANY CONFRONTATION ON ISSUES ON WHICH THE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION ARE AS STRONG AS EVER--WITHDRAWAL FROM JUDEA AND SAMARIA AND THE PALESTINE NATIONAL ENTITY--PREFERRING INSTEAD TO BRING AS CLOSE TO EACH OTHER AS POSSIBLE THEIR RESPECTIVE STANDS ON PROCEDURAL MATTERS AND THEREBY MAINTAIN THE POLITICAL MOMENTUM. FOR THE TIME BEING ISRAEL AND THE U.S. HAVE COORDINATED TACTICAL STRATEGY, INCLUDING THE AGREEMENT ON THE NEED FOR A POLITICAL TRUCE BETWEEN ALL THE SIDES, VIZ., ABSTAINING FROM MAKING DECLARATIONS ON THE ISSUES IN DISPUTE; PERHAPS NOT ONLY ABSTAINING FROM DECLARATIONS BUT FROM ACTION AS WELL."

7. ASIDE FROM COMMENTARY, THERE WERE THESE REPORTS COMING OUT OF ISRAEL'S WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENTS: MAARIV, QUOTING "RELIABLE SOURCES," SAYS BEGIN IS INCLINED TO AGREE TO A U.S. SUGGESTION THAT A U.N. EMERGENCY FORCE BE STATIONED IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. HAARETZ' MARCUS LEARNED FROM A "U.S. SOURCE" THAT BEGIN HAD HINTED THAT NO NEW SETTLEMENTS WOULD BE ESTABLISHED BEFORE THE CONVENING OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. DUNNIGAN

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